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*Testimony of Vincent J. Loffredo
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Connecticut Education Association

Education Committee

Public Hearing

***Re: Raised Bill 6499 Sections 5, 11 & 19
An Act Concerning Minor Revisions To The Education Statutes***

Monday, March 7, 2011

Good afternoon, Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee. My name is Vincent Loffredo. I'm the Director of Government Relations for the Connecticut Education Association. I'm here today to comment on sections 5, 11, and 19 of **Raised Bill 6499 An Act Concerning Minor Revisions To The Education Statutes**.

Section 5 modifies subsection (c) of section 10-153f of the Teacher Negotiations Act by requiring that the legislative body or bodies of a school district to receive a copy of the arbitrator or arbitrators decision. CEA opposes amending the Teacher Negotiation Act including this proposed change.

This proposed legislative change is unnecessary. It flies in the face of "home rule" and local control. A local legislative body has the authority to remedy this problem. Current law provides for the arbitrator(s) decision to be sent to each town clerk in the school district(s) involved. If there is a problem where a legislative body is not receiving this information, it has the authority to adopt a resolution or ordinance directing the town clerk to immediately transmit a copy of the arbitrator(s) decision to it.

Section 11 modifies the subsection (c) of section 10-151 of the "Fair Dismissal Law" by changing the date when a teacher who has not attained tenure receives a notice of non-renewal. CEA supports maintaining the current notice date of April 1. This date has been in effect for more than twenty-five years without any problem.

Lastly, section 19 lines 647 to 653 needs to be reexamined to ensure that the “access information in the state-wide mastery examination” that this allows complies with and does not violate the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**.

Thank for the opportunity to comment on **Raised Bill 6499, AAC Minor Revisions To The Education Statutes**.